



# The Closed-Loop Scoop

Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

February 2003

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## Tons of Electronics Recycled in Snohomish County

*Local schools and cities recycle thousands of computers*

Over 7,000 computers, monitors, and televisions were collected free of charge from Snohomish County public school districts and cities and towns and sent for recycling between December 9 – 20, thanks to a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to Snohomish County Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division. Total Reclaim, a Seattle firm, handled the recycling.

"This one-time free clean out opportunity makes it possible for these agencies to have a fresh start in properly managing and preventing electronic waste," said Jeff Kelley-Clarke, Director of the Solid Waste Management Division.

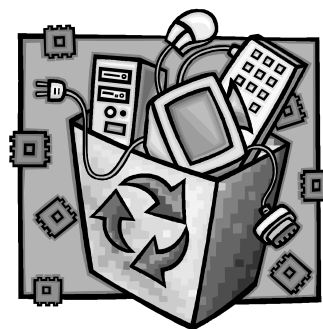
Due to federal, state, and the local Health District regulations, Snohomish County solid waste facilities no longer accept computer monitors, televisions, or computers in the garbage because of hazardous content such as lead in the cathode ray tubes. Various recycling options are now available to county residents, businesses, and agencies.

"It is important that these discarded electronics go to reputable recyclers who

are processing and marketing the materials in a conscientious way that prevents harm to human health or the environment," added Kelley-Clarke. Recently, the Basel Action Network film "Exporting Harm" showed the environmental damage to a city in China, resulting from lack of proper controls and protection in the recycling of North American computers and monitors.

In addition to the one-time clean out collection, the County is also working with the school districts and cities and towns to develop strategies for preventing electronic waste in the future. These strategies include developing contractual language to require vendors of new computers to pay for the recycling of old computers, and establishing a donation "screening" policy so that unusable computers are not accepted by school districts.

"People think they are doing a good thing by donating their old computers to schools," commented Marcia Rutan, project manager and Senior Planner for the Solid Waste Division. "Actually, many, if not most, of those computers



end up requiring disposal, which costs the school districts valuable dollars that could otherwise go to educational programs. These new regulations make it essential for donors to carefully check with school districts or charities before dropping off electronic equipment."

School districts participating in the grant program include: Arlington, Darrington, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lakewood, Marysville, Monroe, Mukilteo, Snohomish, Stanwood/Camano, and Sultan. Cities and towns include: Arlington, Edmonds, Everett, Lynnwood, Marysville, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, and Sultan.

For more information on electronic recycling options in Snohomish County, call the Solid Waste Management Division at 425-388-3425, press "0."

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## Rehab the Lab!

*Old dangers don't die, but new grant program can help a school send them packing.*

Rehab  
the LAB



*As they sit in deteriorating containers, on shelves vulnerable to collapse or earthquake damage, the risk they pose to students and staff increases.*

Most high school science labs are home to old, hazardous chemicals that are no longer being used in chemistry classes. Some were purchased in large quantity because they were cheaper in bulk.

Examples are liquid mercury, bromine, various acids, bases, and sodium and potassium compounds. Some of these chemicals currently being stored in science class cupboards or adjacent stockrooms are as old as 20, 30, or even 40 years. Often labels are unreadable or missing, and caps have rusted or dissolved. As they sit in deteriorating containers, on shelves vulnerable to collapse or earthquake damage, the risk they pose to students and staff increases. If the containers fail, or if idle curiosity is acted upon, explosive reactions may occur, or extremely toxic substances may be absorbed through the skin or lungs, causing long-term health effects or worse.

An initial Department of Ecology effort to address this problem began several years ago when the School Sweeps Campaign cleaned up many science labs around the state. King County participated in this program and continued with the effort when state funds were discontinued. Now Ecology is readdressing the problem utilizing expertise developed in King County to extend to other parts of the state. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring a series of one-day workshops for science teachers and

school administrators put on by Dave Waddell, hazardous chemical expert and operator of the King County program.

In the first half of 2003, Ecology will be offering grants to school districts, educational service districts, or county health departments around the state who are willing to bring the lab audit and disposal techniques to schools in their area. Training will also be provided to help science teachers develop safer labs and compatible storage for the chemicals they continue to use. For the first series of grants, \$250,000 is budgeted. Since there are at least 300 high schools which may be in need of these services which cost in the range of \$5000 or more per school, the grants will only begin to address the problem, and not all applicants will be helped.

For further information on workshops, call Mary Sue Linville, Director of Loss Control with the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool at 206-439-6956 or 1-800-488-7569. For grant information call Steve Loftness, Ecology HQ, at 360-407-6060.

*For more information on Rehab the Lab, contact Steve Loftness at 360-407-6060 or e-mail: [stlo461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:stlo461@ecy.wa.gov)*

### Ecology Issues Scrap Tire Report to the Legislature

At the request of the Washington State Legislature, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) performed research on scrap tire management that reached to other states and various scrap tire industry contacts in North America. In addition, the recommendations from a legislative scrap tire task force in Oregon were examined.

The research was conducted with a focus on high end-value markets. The report's findings point toward encouraging markets for crumb rubber from scrap tires. Nationally, this is a growing market, but in the Northwest there are missing pieces of the market, specifically crumb rubber used in road construction and other civil engineering projects. Fortunately, there is a lot of research that can be used to address the cost and technical issues surrounding the support of this market in Washington.

The report is available on-line at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0207029.html>.

## Manufacturer of recycled ceramic tile is latest partner in King County's LinkUp program



*TriVitro collects the dust and finely ground particles and sends it to Quarry Tile . . . and its use saves TriVitro more than \$20,000 a year in disposal costs.*

### Related Information

[Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs for Businesses](#)

[Construction Recycling and Green Building Program](#)

[King Street Center Features](#)

King County welcomes its newest member of the LinkUp program, Quarry Tile Company, which manufactures Eco-Tile, a ceramic tile made of approximately 70 percent recycled materials. LinkUp was developed to encourage businesses to use more recycled materials in the products they make.

Eco-Tile is produced using a combination of recycled glass, recycled grinding paste from the computer industry and recycled soil/rock waste from the sand and gravel industry. Eco-Tile also contains reprocessed glaze waste from Quarry Tile Company's other manufacturing operations.

Quarry Tile, from Spokane, Washington, was selected a LinkUp partner for several reasons. One is the company's use of mixed-color glass cullet, designated a priority material for increased recycling by King County's Solid Waste Division. The glass cullet is supplied by the TriVitro Corporation, Kent, Washington.

TriVitro, another participant in the LinkUp program, manufactures recycled tumbled glass pebbles for home décor and hobbyist use

as well as a recycled-glass grit used for blasting abrasive. After crushing the glass for its own products, TriVitro collects the dust and finely ground particles and sends it to Quarry Tile. Previously, the glass dust was disposed of in a landfill.

The partnership is a win-win situation for both companies and for King County. The scrap material from TriVitro makes up about 25 percent of the recycled content used in Eco-Tile, and its use saves TriVitro more than \$20,000 a year in disposal costs. The County benefits through increased demand for recycled glass generated and collected locally.

All of the recycled materials used in Eco-Tile come from within a 350-mile radius of Quarry Tile's manufacturing plant in Spokane. In addition to the mixed-glass cullet, the grinding paste used to make Eco-Tile is a manufacturing by-product from a computer CD manufacturer in Portland, Oregon, and the soil and rock waste comes from Central Pre-Mix, a Spokane-area concrete manufacturer. In the past, the company had been using virgin clay, some of it trucked in from 2,300 miles away.

Eco-Tile is available in more than 50 colors which the company calls Natural Hues. It comes in five sizes and in all of the trim shapes needed for floors and walls. The recycled-content tiles are becoming more popular in green-building construction and were recently used in the new Seattle Justice Center, a municipal building that incorporates a number of energy and resource efficient features.

The LinkUp team will help Quarry Tile find new markets for its Eco-Tile line. Team members may provide some marketing support as well as material testing to provide independent verification of the product's breaking strength.

LinkUp was launched two years ago to encourage manufacturers to incorporate more recycled materials into their products. The program, sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division, offers free, customized technical and promotional support to eligible businesses.

LinkUp works with an average of six new businesses each year. For more information about the LinkUp program, contact Erv Sandlin at 206-296-0233 or visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/bizprog/LinkUp/home.htm>.

### Partners Help Each Other Win Awards

On January 15, 2003, Pierce County Health Department presented Foss Waterway Marina in Tacoma with a 5-star Envirostar rating. The current owners of the marina, concerned about water quality and the sightliness of the neighborhood, have installed a new used oil tank and hazardous waste storage, and have initiated recycling for paper, cans, glass, batteries and fluorescent tubes.

This sort of success is just what Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB) was hoping for when it worked to include marinas in Pierce County's Envirostar program. And because CHB has done so much work of this nature, the Environmental Protection Agency presented CHB with the 2002 *Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award* for Region 10.

# Litter and it will hurt.

## Torquemada II

Coming soon to a roadside near you!

That's right, Torquemada is coming back to rid the state of "vile litterers," and he wants your help. (It's not nice to say "No" to Torquemada!) The Department of Ecology will be launching the media campaign in mid-May 2003, a great time to get your organization involved and be on Torquemada's friendly side. The following materials are available **free\*** of charge:

- One VHS tape of three 30-second television spots for you to air on local stations.
- One CD with three 60-second and one 30-second radio spot (MP3 format) for you to air on local stations (cassettes also available).
- Electronic or hard copy ad-slicks to run in local papers or newsletters.
- An electronic or hard copy of the road sign specifications to put signs up locally (you must produce the signs).
- One CD with all the campaign artwork for you to replicate including web banners for your website.
- 12 x 18" or 24 x 36" campaign posters featuring the campaign slogan and the fines for littering (up to 10 each).
- 12 x 18" or 24 x 36" campaign posters featuring a "trucker bottle" and the campaign slogan (up to 10 each).
- 2 x 4" sticker for your dashboard with the campaign slogan and the litter hotline phone number (up to 10 each).



- 4 x 6" static window cling with the campaign slogan and the litter hotline phone number (up to 10 each).
- 12 x 16" car litterbag with the campaign slogan and the fines for littering (up to 10 each).

*\*Quantities are limited. Larger quantities may be available on a reimbursement basis.*

Send an email to [litter1@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:litter1@ecy.wa.gov) to request your copies now (please indicate the material requested, the name and shipping address, and how you intend to use the materials). Or for more information call:

- Megan Warfield, 360-407-6963 (Southwest Washington)
- Emma Johnson, 425-649-7266 (Northwest Washington)
- Shelly Smith, 509-454-7873 (Eastern and Central Washington)

For more information about the "litter and it will hurt" prevention campaign, including some results from last year, visit [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/litter/campaign.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/litter/campaign.html)

### Ecology Issues 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Status Report on Solid Waste

The Solid Waste in Washington State - Eleventh Annual Status Report (publication #02-07-019) is now available. To view the report on-line, go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0207019.html>. For a printed copy, contact Ecology's Publications Distribution Center at 360-407-7472.

### Plucked from the grapevine ...

According to a Wall Street Journal (December 16, 2002) report on a poll commissioned by Alcan Aluminum Corp., public participation in recycling in the U.S. is on the decline. Results showed that 49% of those polled said they were recycling more now than they were in the mid-90s, but their testimony was largely dismissed as having been motivated by their desire to sound environmentally concerned.



# From Waste-to-Worth

Jay Shepard, Sustainability Strategist



## Predictions for 2003

This is the time when we look ahead to the future with resolutions and prognostications for the New Year. In our business of handling solid waste, it is interesting to take a look at what we might have in store. So, here are a few predictions of what to expect this upcoming year in Washington State for you to contemplate and consider, based on past trends:

Population will increase, to 6,125,000 people.

The number of licensed vehicles will increase to 6,431,250.

There will be 25,000 new single-family housing starts.

The amount of waste disposed of will break the 7-million-ton mark.

The recycling rate will drop slightly by approximately 0.2%.

Might be right, might be wrong. We will see. But, how does it make you feel?

[ ] Hopeless. There seems to be no hope for turning the tide of waste generation.

[ ] Angry. Our society continues on its consumptive path.

[ ] Chagrined. Even with all my efforts, waste keeps increasing.

[ ] Mad. The neighbors, they aren't doing their part.

[ ] Ambivalent. What can I do about it?

[ ] Determined. I am going to do what I can to change the trends.

[ ] Challenged. I am going to find new opportunities for waste reduction.

[ ] I don't feel anything, I want to argue the numbers!

[ ] Other

Whatever your reaction, hopefully these projections will call you to action. The key word is YOU. ME? Yep! It starts with one. Never underestimate the power of one and the power you have in the choices you make every day. Never underestimate the power you have to influence others.

So, take a look at what you can do to reduce your environmental footprint. By your demonstration, you can influence others. You can encourage others by modeling a sustainable behavior. You can change the world.

## Suggested Reading:

[The End of Economic Growth](#) from The Preservation Institute, 2140 Shattuck Ave., Suite 2122, Berkeley, CA 94709  
Phone: 510-848-7827.

## Calendar of Events

**March 14, 2003**, Terry Husseman Sustainable Schools Awards Applications due! For more information, contact Michelle Payne, (360) 407-6129 or email [mdav461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mdav461@ecy.wa.gov).

**May 4-7, 2003**, The Washington State Recycling Association will hold its Recycling Conference and Trade Show in Spokane. Contact: 206-244-0322 or visit their Web site at [http://www.wsra.net/d0\\_conference.asp](http://www.wsra.net/d0_conference.asp).

The **Oregon Natural Step Network** will be offering a number of workshops in Portland, Oregon. **Feb. 27** – Developing and Using Sustainability Indicators; **April 3** – TNS Framework and Its Application in Organizations; **April 29** – Sustainable Purchasing; **May 28** – Systems Thinking for Sustainable Development. For more information, or to register, contact Steve Radtke at (503) 241-1140 or [steve@ortns.org](mailto:steve@ortns.org), or visit <http://www.ortns.org/events.htm>.

**May 29-31, 2003**, the Sustainability Forum will take place in Portland. Contact Sustainable Northwest at 503-222-7041 or visit the Forum Web site at <http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/soc/sfindex.htm>.

**June 4-6, 2003**, 29th Annual Waste Reduction Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Recycling Council of British Columbia will be take place in Penticton, BC. For details, contact the Council at 604-683-6009, Ext 314, or visit their Web site at <http://www.rcbc.bc.ca/>.

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## We Have Run Into the Enemy, and He Is Us

*Our SUVs are solid, but is that a waste?*



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*Left to itself, an SUV  
is as safe as any  
other parked car.*

We should all by now know that the mass and poor fuel efficiency of SUVs result in a greater-than-necessary stress on the environment. Many of us are willing to downplay that more distant threat and focus instead on the immediate safety that we assume we have in all that metal that surrounds us—as long as we're careful not to roll over. One recent study claims, however, that if you drive an SUV you are no safer than the drivers of ordinary cars around you. Nevertheless, you are more dangerous to them than you might have been—though still not as dangerous to them as you would be if you were driving a full-size pickup truck.

These are among the conclusions drawn in a study

that the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy. If you'd like to examine the report, it's available on-line at <http://www.aceee.org/pubs/t021full.pdf>. For another perspective on the relative safety of SUVs, visit <http://www.safecarguide.com/exp/safety/idx.htm>. Of course, the enemy's being "us" might not mean our own cars are our own worse enemy. It could just mean that our own driving habits should be our main concern. And the safest driving habit of all is simply not to drive.

*This has been  
**A Rock and a Hard Place:**  
a quarterly something-to-think-  
about column from the editor*

## Recycled Art Association Up and Running

*Nothing is a waste to our aesthetic taste*

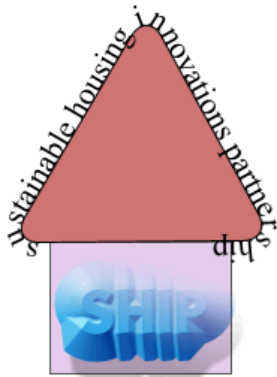
The Recycled Art Association was created to promote and encourage the use of recycled materials in arts, crafts and other creative media. They publish a quarterly newsletter with news, reviews and events for artists; profiles of artists and their work; resources (print, electronic, in-person); grant & funding info; information on classes/workshops; classified ads; member news; and more. In the future, they hope to establish local chapters, a Web site, and a number of venues for making recycled art available.

Clair Coiner is Director of the Recycled Art Association. She has been an artist/craftperson/small business owner for over 20 years and a long-time member of the Saturday Market in Eugene, Oregon, the oldest outdoor crafts market in the U.S. She makes collages from found objects and craft items from recycled clothing. Cliff Martin is Marketing Director of the association and has over 25 years experience in publishing, marketing and promotion. He has been working with recycled art for over a decade. He does collage using rescued plastic packaging or "blisterpack" and mobiles from trash items/found objects.

If you are interested in joining the Recycled Art Association, membership is only \$35 a year for artists working in recycled materials and \$65 a year for associate or organizational members. For a sample newsletter, to join or for more information contact: Clair Coiner or Cliff Martin, The Recycled Art Association, PO Box 1142, Eugene OR 97440, call (541) 345-1411, e-mail: [cliffmar@efn.org](mailto:cliffmar@efn.org).

# A sustainable home for everyone

*Riverwalk Point in Spokane soon to welcome first residents*



"Riverwalk will have live-in management and will offer life-skills and green/simple living workshops as part of the general services to renters."

Next month marks the long-awaited grand opening of Riverwalk Point, a sustainably designed and built low-income housing community on the banks of the Spokane River.

The Department of Ecology's Eastern Region staff helped the project developers, Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs (SNAP), develop a sustainable design program, select an appropriate architect, and screen general contractors for their ability to build in an environmentally sound manner. Staff also recruited a group of environmentally sensitive builders and architects to serve on the project's design team, and recommended measures to track implementation of the green design by contractors and subcontractors.

The project is completing the first phase, five buildings. The first two of the five buildings in the first phase will be renting in February. The first two units feature a continuous ventilation system, reduced carpeting, recycled-content framing materials and siding, high-efficiency windows, insulated concrete form walls, sealed ducting, and other energy-saving

and indoor air-quality features. Units yet to be completed will include a geothermal heating system and recycled steel roofing.

Eventually, the project will feature as many as 15 buildings with 153 housing units, a community center, small mini-playfields with each building, handicap-accessible walking paths that connect to Spokane's Centennial Trail, and many other amenities normally associated with exclusive, gated communities.

In addition to being built to green building standards, the project is targeted at larger low-income families and some transitional housing for the recently homeless. Riverwalk will have live-in management and will offer life-skills and green/simple living workshops as part of the general services to renters. In February, 10 units will be rented out with another 44 to be rented by summer as those buildings are completed.

For more information, contact Jim Wavada, SWFAP-ERO, 509-329-3456, [jwav461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jwav461@ecy.wa.gov).



## Terry Husseman Sustainable Schools Awards Program Reminder!

Ecology intends to reward schools that embrace sustainability through the Terry Husseman Sustainable Schools Awards Program. This CASH award program replaces the 14-year-old Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction and Recycling in Public Schools Award program.

The application package is available on the web at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html>, or by contacting Michelle Payne at [mdav461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mdav461@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-407-6129. The applications are due March 15, 2003. The judging and selection will happen in March, notice of the chosen applicants will occur in April and an award ceremony will be held on May 14, 2003. Please encourage your local school to participate in this competitive, yet lucrative award program!

**Department of  
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